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OCT 03 2006

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 14 and 19 without prejudice and amend claims 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 21 as follows:

Claims 1 to 9.(canceled)

10.(currently amended) A method of preserving a perishable cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation, said method comprising the step of adding bioactive glass particles having particles sizes (d_{50}) less than or equal to 400 μm to said preparation, so that said preparation contains an effective amount of said bioactive glass particles for antibacterial action up to 25 percent by weight after the adding;

wherein said bioactive glass particles contain CaO and P_2O_5 in respective amounts and a molar ratio of calcium to phosphorus is greater than 2, so that hydroxyapatite is formed on said bioactive glass particles in aqueous media.

11.(previously presented) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said preparation contains from up to 10 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles after the adding.

12.(previously presented) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said bioactive glass particles have particle sizes (d_{50}) less than or equal to 10 μm .

13.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain at least 2 percent by weight phosphorous oxide ~~[[.]] and contain at least one toxic metal cation but only in amounts such that toxic concentrations of said at least one toxic metal cation are not released.~~

Claim 14.(canceled)

15.(currently amended) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain from 40 to 60 percent by weight of SiO_2 , from 10 to 30 percent by weight of said CaO , from 10 to 35 percent by weight of Na_2O , from 2 to 8 percent by weight of said P_2O_5 , from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF_2 , from 0 to 10 percent by weight of B_2O_3 , from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K_2O and 0 to 5 percent by weight of MgO .

16.(currently amended) A cosmetic preparation comprising up to 10 percent by weight of bioactive glass particles having particles sizes (d_{50}) less than or equal to 400 μm and a liquid;

wherein said bioactive glass particles contain CaO and P_2O_5 in respective amounts and a molar ratio of calcium to phosphorus is greater than 2, so that hydroxyapatite is formed on said bioactive glass particles in aqueous media;

wherein said bioactive glass particles are present in an amount sufficient to act as a preservative from bacterial action and alcohol is not present, at least in an amount sufficient to provide preservative action; and

wherein said bioactive glass particles have a refractive index that is close enough to that of said liquid so that said bioactive glass particles are substantially invisible to an observer and thus do not affect preparation appearance.

17.(previously presented) The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 16, wherein said bioactive glass particles have a particle size (d_{50}) of less than or equal to 10 or 5 μm .

18.(currently amended) The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 16, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain at least 2 percent by weight of said P_2O_5 ~~phosphorous oxide~~.

Claim 19.(canceled)

20.(currently amended) The cosmetic preparation as defined in claim 16, wherein said bioactive glass particles contain from 40 to 60 percent by weight of SiO_2 , from 10 to 30 percent by weight of said CaO , from 10 to 35 percent by weight of Na_2O , from 2 to 8 percent by weight of said P_2O_5 , from 0 to 25 percent by weight of CaF_2 , from 0 to 10 percent by weight of B_2O_3 , from 0 to 8 percent by weight of K_2O and 0 to 5 percent by weight of MgO .

21.(currently amended) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical preparation that comes into contact with skin, said preparation comprising up to 25 percent by weight of

bioactive glass particles;

wherein said bioactive glass particles contain CaO and P₂O₅ in respective amounts and a molar ratio of calcium to phosphorus is greater than 2, so that hydroxyapatite is formed on said bioactive glass particles in aqueous media;

wherein said bioactive glass particles are present in an amount sufficient to act as a preservative from bacterial action and no organic chemical preservative compounds are present; and

wherein said bioactive glass particles have particles sizes (d₅₀) less than or equal to 400 μm.

22.(previously presented) The preparation as defined in claim 21, containing up to 7 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles, and wherein said particle sizes (d₅₀) of said bioactive glass particles are less than or equal to 5 μm.

23.(previously presented) The preparation as defined in claim 21, containing up to 3 percent by weight of said bioactive glass particles.

24.(previously presented) The preparation as defined in claim 21, consisting of a cosmetic cream for application to the skin, a cosmetic lotion for application to the skin, a lipstick or a make-up composition.